

STATE

/CALIFORNIA

COUNTY

Contra Costa

TOWN OR VICINITY

NEAR

Brentwood

Marsh Creek Road

INDEX NUMBER

CAL, 7- (BRENT.V.)

MONUMENT

John Marsh House (Los Medanos Rancho)

REPRESENTED IN
NEGATIVE FILEH.A.B.S. SURVEY NO.
CAL-1500History: Built 1851-56 to designs
by Thomas Boyd. Marsh received ABPUBLISHED
PHOTOGRAPHS

degree from Harvard, which he presented to Mexican officials and received license to practice medicine. Received grant to Los Meganos Rancho in 1837, previously granted in 1835 to Jose Noriega. John Bidwell party, the first emigrants to travel to California via Overland route, arrived here in 1841. Marsh married Abigail Tuck in 1851 and "constructed the finest house in Calif."

PUBLISHED
DRAWINGS

for her but she died before it was completed. Marsh was murdered in 1856 at age of 57.

Description: Three-story mansion of native sandstone.

Original fourstory tower over entrance was damaged by earthquake 1868 and replaced with wood for top story.

Third story - gabled dormers with pointed arch windows.

First and second story windows segmented arches. Veranda with second floor balcony surrounded building on three sides. Stone work - rough ashlar bond with faced quoins and trim at openings. Wood cornice and shingle roof.

References: Here Lived The Californians - Oscar Lewis.

Historic Spots in California - Hoover & Rensch.

Author of Card: A. Lewis Koue, AIA, Oakland, California.

September 1961

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✓California Contra Costa Brentwood Vicinity

State

County

Town or Vicinity

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10d

LOS MEDANOS RANCHO

HABS I

Structure

John Marsh House

(CAL-1500)

Library Material: Pages of a Report, 9; Photographs, (5)1;
Measured Drawings, 0.

History: Built between 1853 and 1856 by a pioneer
physician, John Marsh. Designed by Thomas Boyd and con-
structed by Pierce and Wood.

Description: Three story masonry structure with a lofty
off-center tower on the facade. Never important for its
interiors. A cross between Victorian Gothic "cottage"
and an Italian Villa

(over)

HABS I

Reference: Bancroft, Huber Howe. History of California, VI, pp. 10-11. Hoover and Rensch. Historic Spots in California (one vol. ed.: revised), Stanford University Press, 1948, pp. 234-235.

Index Card Prepared by: Charles S. Pope, AIA, National Park Service, Western Office, Design and Construction
January 1966